Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1629 - October 31, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1629 with a release date of Friday, October 31st, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, thanks hams world-wide who helped to make his adventure in space a big success. Also, the crossband repeater on board the International Space Station comes on the air, a California jury decides the fate of a convicted murderer of two radio amateurs, Ireland gives its hams a 5 MHz allocation while hams in Spain gain access to the 1 point 8 and 70 MHz bands. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1629 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: RICHARD GARRIOTT W5KWK SAYS THANKS TO THE WORLD WIDE HAM COMMUNITY

Ham radio space traveler Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, is back on solid ground and has paused to thank the world-wide amateur radio community for making his journey to orbit such a great success. Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, is here to tell us what ham radios newest space hero has to say:

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Actual contact audio of Richard Garriott W5KWQ on the ISS

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Not long after getting through medical evaluations and getting adjusted to Earth's gravity, Richard Garriott had a lot to say about his amateur radio adventures in space.

His father, Dr. Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who met his son after he landed safely in the Soyuz space capsule, relayed Richard's thoughts and appreciation to the ham community through an email.

In it, Dr. Garriott provided a transcript of an interview with Richard, in which he relayed the space traveler's thoughts and feelings.

He said W5KWQ was surprised to find so many enthusiastic hams who were so well informed of his activities.

Richard said he was receiving reports from Mission Control-Moscow about the technical side of his work and how much the amateur community was enjoying his transmissions.

"This redoubled my enthusiasm to do quality work for the amateur radio legions around the world as I realized how much it meant to those with whom I had the chance to talk," Richard said. "By late in my flight I had contacted many hundreds of hams by voice and I have good records of these contacts."

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  Actual contact audio of Richard Garriott W5KWQ on the ISS

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Finally, Richard related he had contacted many hams who had listened to or contacted his father in space 25 yars ago.

On the final days of his flight, Richard says he was moved by the many soft-landing messages from individuals and classrooms of children he received as he passed overheard.

And Richard offered a special salute to those who helped make his flight such a tremendous adventure.

"The ham community has added greatly to my personal feelings of success on my flight," Richard said. "I can only hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did."

Our thanks to Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, AMSAT's vice president for human spaceflight programs and international chairman of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program for passing along the Garriott email.

And, a special thanks to so many of you who forwarded audio clips to us here at the Amateur Radio Newsline editorial offices in Los Angeles of contacts W5KWQ made.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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While W5KWQ is back on the ground, the International Space Station will have at least one other ham radio visitor in the coming months. Word is that former Microsoft executive Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, will be heading on his second trip to the orbital outpost sometime next year.   (ARNewsline(tm) with actuality audio supplied by radio amateurs worldwide)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CROSSBAND REPEATER OPERATIONAL FROM THE ISS

Still with ham radio space related news, Roy Stokes, AG5D, says that astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT has turned on the crossband repeater on board the International Space Station and early reports indicate that its coverage is quite good to those within its ever shifting radio range.

The world-wide frequencies are 437.80 MHz as your uplink while you listen on 145.80 MHz as the downlink or output channel. Operation is similar to working the Amsat Oscar 51 satellite or any ground-based crossband system. The big difference is that in this case you literally talk through the repeater on board the I-S-S to other hams within range of the I-S-S radio footprint on the ground.

How long the crossband repeater will remain in operation is not known. 145.8 MHz is also used for normal QSO's and school contacts, you can expect it to be off during those times. Also, the crossband repeater uses the crossband repeat function of the on-board Kenwood D 700 radio. This unit is also used for other on-orbit ham radio operations and during those periods the repeater will likely be off line. (ARISS Refector)

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RESCUE RADIO: GLOBAL SET NOVEMBER 8th UPDATE

More information has surfaced on the upcoming International Amateur Radio Union sponsored Simulated Emergency Test. As reported a few weeks ago, International amateur Radio Union member societies and emergency groups world-wide will take part in the on air communications exercise on November 8th. Jim Linton, VK3PC, has the latest:

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The Global Simulated Emergency Test on or near the emergency Center-of-Activity frequencies on the 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meter bands runs 0400 to 0800 UTC on Saturday, 8 November.

Organized by the IARU Region 1 this exercise aims Increase the common interest in emergency communications
Test how usable the Center-of-Activity frequencies are across ITU regions
Create practices for international emergency communication and the relay of messages using all modes.

Participating stations using Phone, Data or CW will be heard calling 'CQ GLOBALSET' or initiating and relaying messages.

Where their local regulations permit they may also add the recommended /D to their callsigns to identify as a distress or disaster station.

The amateur radio community is asked to be aware of this important training exercise on the 8 November and to please keep the Emergency Center-of-Activity frequencies clear.

I'm Jim Linton VK3PC, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Again that's Saturday, November 8th runs 0400 to 0800 UTC for the Global Simulated Emergency Test. A ham radio emergency training exercise whose results could eventually help save lives. (IARU via WIA News.)

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RESCUE RADIO: CANADIAN DATABASE NAME CHANGE

Still with rescue radio news, word from up North that the acronym for the Radio Amateurs of Canada's Canadian Amateur Radio Emergency Database Has been charged from "CARED" to the National Amateur Radio Emergency Database, or "NARED." We are told that the change was made in order to avoid possible confusion with another Amateur Radio-related list that uses

the "CARED" acronym for a database unrelated to emergency communications. (RAC)

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RESTRUCTURING: HAMS IN IRELAND GET 5 MHZ ALLOCATION

The First 5 MHz licenses have been issued to hams in Ireland. Following a long process of contacts between the military authorities and Ireland's regulator ComReg, the first of the 5 MHz operating permits were issued to E I prefix stations on Friday, October 17th.

Hams in Ireland are permitted three, 3 kHz wide, spot channels with center frequencies of 5280, 5400 and 5405 kHz. As in other parts of the world where 5 MHz operation is permitted, the practice is to use Upper Sideband for voice transmissions on these channels with a radio dial readout of 5278.5, 5398.5 and 5403.5 kHz respectively. CW stations are encouraged to use the bottom 300 Hz of the channels as this permits the use of the channel for SSB at the same time. (IRTS)

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RESTRUCTURING: SPAIN GIVES HAMS 1.8 MHZ AND 70 MHZ BANDS

Amateurs in Spain will be getting new allocations at both 70 MHz and 1.8 MHz allocations. This, according to an announcement posted on the website of the Spanish national ham radio society, the URE.

The post says that the new Spanish Radio 4 metro allocation is 70.150 - 70.200 MHz with a 10 watts Effective Radiated Power restriction. Spanish Amateurs will be permitted to operate 160 meters on 1 point 810 to 1 point 830 and 1 dot 850 to 2 dot 000 MHz during specified international contests.

The announcement in Spanish is on-line at www.ure.es. An English translation can be found at tinyurl.com/5pcs25 (Southgate)

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BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W1JLI Memorial repeater serving Norwood, Massachusetts.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO LAW: FCC LIMITS DART ALASKA ALLOCATION AT 7 MHZ

A win for the ARRL in its request that an Alaskan digital radio experimental broadcast license be modified to exclude operation in the 40 meter band, but one that may not have been necessary. This with word that

the Federal Communications Commission has modified the license for the WE2XRH granted to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies for Digital Radio Mondiale trials in the far North. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has more:

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As we reported last week, on October 20th the American Radio Relay League had asked the FCC to delete the 7.1 to 7.3 MHz amateur service segment from the 7.1 to 7.6 MHz allocation that it had approved to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies. This, as one of several segments originally authorized to its Digital Radio Mondiale transmission experiment.

Acting uncharacteristically quickly, on October 24th the FCC limited the station's license to 7.3 to 7.6 MHz if it wanted to try 40 meter operations. All other spectrum allocated for the experiment in the 4.5 to 5.1 and 9.25 to 9.95 MHz were not affected.

However, it turns out that the main reason for the quick action by the FCC may have had nothing to do with what hams wanted. Rather, the word is that it gave the agency a chance to correct a clerical error made in the original license grant.

According to several sources, the reach of the 7 MHz Digital Aurora Radio Technologies frequency assignment down to 7.1 MHz was never an issue in the Digital Radio Mondiale broadcasting community. Sources say that it has always been widely understood that no domestic Digital Radio Mondiale experiment or service will be launched in any ham radio band.

So what happened? The Digital Aurora Radio Technologies antenna system bandwidth as specified in its filing to the FCC shows that it had the capability to operate down to 7.1 MHz . In an oversight, that became authorized as the lower band edge for the experimental grant until the ARRL petitioned the FCC to change it.

Soon after the ARRL filed its petition Digital Aurora Radio Technologies readily agreed to the change. Also to be noted is that none of the technical data that Digital Aurora Radio Technologies supplied to the FCC proposed transmissions in any amateur service band.

None the less the ARRL apparently felt compelled to act now if for no other reason than to protect ham radio operations on 40 meters from the potential incursion that might happen at a later date. This, if another broadcaster or service came along that did not want to play be the established gentlemen's agreement rules.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

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The bottom line. Some on-line critics of the ARRL claim that this action and other recent stands by the League may have ruffled some political feathers in the nations capital. What these hams tend to forget is that protecting the ham radio spectrum -- and doing so at any cost -- is the ARRL's job.

For more insight on this subject, see http://klixie.com/26mhz/index.php?id) (ARNewsline(tm) from ARRL press release and other sources.)

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RADIO HERITAGE: MIKE DORROUGH KO6NM TRYING TO SAVE DELANO VOA RADIO SITE

Famed inventor Mike Dorrough, KO6NM, is taking part in efforts to save the retired Voice of America facility in Delano, California. Dorrough says that he is trying to enlist the help of Delano city officials to restrain demolition of the facility.

According to KO6NM, the Delano V-O-A facility is part of America's broadcast history and the greatest radio antenna landmark in California, if not the world. He is urging the city of Delano to use whatever power it has to keep the wrecking ball from destroying the most important historical, educational and strategic radio installation in the world today.

Delano Mayor Sam Ramirez says that he had not been aware that the facility might be removed. Dorrough says that there is only one Voice of America facility intact in existence, and it is in Delano. It is also the last shortwave broadcast facility of its kind.

Mike Dorrough is a long-time electronics manufacturer in the broadcast and audio business. He is a recipient of several awards including the National Association of Broadcasters Radio Engineering Achievement Award, a technical Emmy and an Academy Award. (RW)

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RADIO HERITAGE: CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LENORE JENSEN, W6NAZ

A special radio club screening of an episode of the famed television show "This is Your Life" exploring the life and ham radio career of the late actress and ham radio operator Lenore Kingston Jensen, W-6-N-A-Zed, has been announced for Friday, February 20th, 2009, This, to her longtime radio club to celebrate her recent induction into the CQ Ham Radio Hall of Fame. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

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The event is being produced by Cliff Chen, AC6C, and will be hosted by the San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club. This is an organization that both Lenore and her husband Bob Jensen, W6VGQ, called their home radio club and belong to for many years.

For those of you who never heard of Lenore Jensen who was known professionally as Lenore Kingson, a bit of background. Starting in the 1930's and continuing through most of her career, W6NAZ was a well known character actress in radio, television and in some movies. She began her career in radio drama in Chicago. Eventually he came to Hollywood where she appeared on such top rated TV shows as "The Munster," "Petticoat Junction," "Love American Style" and "Ironside" to name only a few.

But it was not her career in the entertainment world that brought her to

"This Is Your Life." Rather, it was brought to the attention of producer and host Ralph Edwards that the wife of the show's Director -- the late Bob Conn -- was a ham operator who had provided over 60,000 phone patches to overseas service personnel. It was an accomplishment that Edwards wanted to honor and did so on national Television before an audience estimated in the millions.

According to AC6C, he was able to procure a DVD of the July 26, 1961 show from Ralph Edwards Productions. He calls the episode very inspiring, noting that for years after it aired that people would approach W6NAZ at conventions and hamfests to tell her that they had become radio amateurs because of it.

AC6C says he is looking forward to this event honoring this very special lady of ham radio.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, who was honored to have Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ, as a friend for many years. I'm reporting from Los Angeles for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Clif Chen, AC6C, has arranged for the radio club screening to be held in the Penthouse Auditorium of Northridge Hospital Medical Center. It is located at 18300 Roscoe Beloved in Northridge, California. The show will begin on February 20th at 7:30 P.M. Pacific Standard Time. (AC6C)

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HAM RADIO BUSINESS: RADIO OPERATIONS CENTER DIGITAL DESKTOP FROM CSS

Turning to the ham radio business scene, Creative Services Software, Inc. has announced the availability of the Radio Operations Center Digital Desktop. Formerly called Pac Term for Kantronics TNCs and P K Term for Timewave and AEA products this new version includes a number of new features and enhancements in addition to re-branding as Creative's' new Radio Operations Center product label. Lots more about Radio Operations Center Digital Desktop is on-line at www.cssincorp.com. (CSS release)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND IN MARCH 2009

On the social scene, word from down-under that the annual Wellington New Zealand Radio EXPO-09 is to be held on March 28th of 2009. The show is sponsored b the Combined Wellington Amateur Radio Expo Committee. In addition to usual manufacturer and retailer displays there will also be swap-meet like trading tables of used equipment. Refreshments will be available in the main hall. (ZL2HO)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: FIRST FRED FISH MEMORIAL AWARD PRESENTED TO W5FF

Lee Fish, K5FF, accepted the first Fred Fish Memorial Award that was awarded posthumously to her late husband Fred, Fish, W5FF, in Ardmore,

Oklahoma, on October 25th. The presentation was made to her by ARRL West Gulf Division Director Coy Day, N5OK. In her remarks, Mrs. Fish recalled times at the early Central States VHF conferences which she and Fred had attended. (VHF Reflector)

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WITH NEWSLINE: ANDY WRAPS UP THE 2007 THANK YOU LIST

Now with some thank you's to those who support these newscasts through the end of 2007, here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ

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Our thank-yous start in October of last year with Newsline's long-time friend Carole Perry Parker, WB2MGP, Staten Island, NY, whose QSL card with the teachers apple on it is proudly displayed on our shacks wall.

Richard Leschack, KB1OCN of Bedford, MA; William Smith, W7GHT of Boise, ID ; The Catalina Island Repeater Association, AA6DP; The South Orange Amateur Radio Association of Mission Viejo and Bob Paquette, W6ZPL of La Habra. Regular contributors include Benton Bonney, W4PE of Orlando; Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of Columbus, OH; William Walters, WA2IBM, and Scott Hensley of the Area Communications Team, both in San Jose.

Via PayPal we heard from Scott Currier, KT1B in Haverhill, MA.

In November we heard from the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group, N6KRV in Lake Isabella, CA, and a matching grant from Don Jefferson, host of their weekly nets on his KC6OCA 145.54 repeater.

In December we heard from: Jim Hansen, KG6ZDP and the West Coast ARC in Huntington Beach, CA

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we at the Amateur Radio Newsline are thankful for you, our loyal listeners, who do your part to help keep these weekly newscasts stay on the air. We've made it easy for you through PayPal on our website, arnewsline.org, and at the address you will hear at the end of this broadcast.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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Andy will be back with us in the near future with more than-you's to those who have contributed to the support fund during 2008. (ARNewsline(tm)
 Support
Fund)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from

our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD: JOHN PAOLI, KG6GCB - CHIEF ENGINEER OF KFI - S.K.

John Paoli, KG6GCB, the Chief Engineer of KFI - AM, in Los Angeles, has passed away. Paoli, who lived in Northridge, California died on Sunday morning, October 19th.

According to the CGC Communicator, either Paoli or his wife had fallen ill and they had gone to the St. Joseph Medical Center's emergency room in Burbank. That's John Paoli unexpectedly collapsed and could not be revived.

According to CGC Communicator editor Bob Gonsett, W6VR, the passing of John Paioli is a real tragedy for the Los Angeles broadcast community. Especially for those who have had the privilege of working with this extraordinarily personable and gentle engineer.

Services for John Paioli were held on Friday, October 24th at Saint Sebastians Church, in Greenbrae, California. (CGC)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ANOTHER UPDATE ON XW-1

We have an update on the upcoming Chinese amateur radio satellite update XW-1. According to Michael Chen BD5RV, the XW-1 will be launched into a Sun synchronous orbit to an altitude: 499 kilometers with an inclination of 98 degrees and an orbital period of 94 minutes. It will be powered by a 16 amp hour Lithium Ion battery that will recharge off solar cells that will be a part of the spacecraft.

XW-1's ham radio payload will consist of a Morse beacon operating at 435 MHz plus a linear transponder for 2 meter and 70 centimeter operations and an FM repeater operating crossband from 2 meters also up to 70 centimeters. A digital store and forward transponder on these same bands round out the gear which Chen says will way in at 5 point 2 kilograms. That come out to be about 11 pounds. (ANS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW AMSAT BOARD ANNOUNCED

Meantime, AMSAT Board of Directors approved a slate officers to serve the 2008 to 2009 administrative year. At its meeting in Atlanta on October 23rd, Barry Baines, WD4ASW, of Westborough, Massachusetts was confirmed as president. Serving with him will be Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, as Vice President of Operations: Gould Smith, WA4SXM as Vice President of User Services: Gunther Meisse, W8GSM in the position of Treasurer and Lee McLamb, KU4OS as both Secretary and Vice P resident of Special Projects.

Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, continues on as Vice President Human Spaceflight. Rounding out the team is Martha Saragovitz who continues as Manager of the AMSAT North America Washington home office. (KU4OS)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: HD RADIO HIGHLIGHTED AT CONSUMER ELECTRONIC DESIGN EXPO

HD Radio backers say that this year's Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association Expo will definitely help them showcase new HD Radio receivers. This after almost two dozen IBOC models were on display at the showcase event held in Denver, Colorado last month.

At this years event audio manufacturers such as Denon, Marantz, Niles Audio, Onkyo and Polk offered a lineup of custom-install, home theater receivers and processors that feature HD Radio technology. And seven new products were unveiled from companies as prestigious as Integra, McIntosh Laboratories and Yamaha. Also, iTunes tagging was supported by some models on display.

IBiquity Digital President Bob Struble described the offerings as being a host of core high-end and mid-range components. Struble added that the adoption of HD Radio technology by consumer electronics companies in the advanced home audio system arena is yet another proof point in the overall manufacturer dedication to offering consumers a variety of HD Radio products that enhance their entertainment experience across a wide-ranging price point spectrum."

The Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association Expo is a trade show for the residential electronic systems industry. (Press release)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FCC REVIEWING IBOC POWER INCREASE

Meantime, Radio World reports that the digital power increase proposal for HD radio now is getting a closer look. This as the Federal Communications Commission asks for public input on the feasibility of increasing FM IBOC transmitted power levels.

According to the newsletter, a group of 18 broadcasters and four IBOC transmission manufacturers have asked the commission to let stations voluntarily increase FM IBOC power up to 10 dB. This, from the current level of 1 percent of a station's authorized analog power to a maximum of 10 percent of a station's authorized analog power. Their intent is to boost digital power levels for better building penetration and mobile and portable reception. IBiquity Digital filed studies in support of the request.

But one broadcaster is saying not so fast. National Public Radio has submitted its recently completed research on digital radio coverage and interference. Funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting its studies concluded that such an increase could result in interference to reception of first- and second-adjacent channel FM outlets. Because of this National Public Radio argues that further testing is necessary.

Either way, the FCC is seeking comment on Mass Media Docket No. 99-325everything involved in this issue no later than November 28th. Reply comments are due in the Commissions hands no later than January 4th 2009. (RW)

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THOSE RARE ONES: WILLIS ISLAND OPERATION CLOSES A DAY EARLY

The Willis Island DXpedition went QRT almost a day early. This after weather reports predicted heavy winds across the island on their planned departure date.

Operation was supposed to continue Sunday, October 26th with camp breakdown on Monday the 27th. But due to heavy winds expected on Monday, the group elected to shut down at 22:00 hours U-T-C on the 25th and use the 26th to strike the antennas, pack the gear, take down the complete camp and transport everything to the boat for the ride home.

The entire team did take part in the first 24 hours of the CQ World Wide SSB Contest with three station positions operational. The remaining station positions did remain available for WARC operation.

According to the teams press release, the decision to end operations early was to permit a controlled shutdown and a secure trip back to the Australian mainland for all members and all of the equipment that had gone to Willis to bring that rare spot on the air. (Various DX sources)

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DX

In DX, word that F4EGX will be working at the French base on Petrel Island from early November through mid of December. He will be using SSB and signing FT5YI during his spare time. No specific bands or frequencies have been mentioned. QSL as directed on the air.

VK2MRP, will be on from Antarctica's Davis Base from November 1st through March 7th of next year. His callsign will be VK0BP but he cannot say when he will have time to operate. If you do make contact, QSL via VK2CA.

And XE1MO is expected to show up portable ZA1 from Albania. He will be there November 1st through the 9th using SSB on 40, 20, 15m and 10 meters. QSLs direct to XE1MO.

Lastly, ZS6AVM, will be on from Swaziland signing 3DA0VM on 40 through 10 meters during all of November. Dave says he will be using a Flex-5000A Software Defined Radio. QSL cards are requested only direct to his home call ZS6AVM.

(Above from various DX news sources.)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE BPL HAMNDICAP RACE

And finally this week a bit of racetrack radio humor from down-under. Its from the Wireless Institute of Australia's weekly ham radio news bulletin but we simply call this story the 2008 B-P-L Handicap:

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Audio only. Hear it in thew MP3 version of this weeks nrewscast that can be downloaded at www.arnewsline.org

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What can we say -- other than that track announcer sounds more than a bit familiar. Could that have been Jim Linton, VK3PC? Well, only the WIA News knows for sure.

(WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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